

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EUR-25 OMB-01 GAC-01 RSR-01 /121 W
----- 075428

P R 160722 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1743

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8637

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT SITREP FOR MAY 15, 1973

FOLLOWING MSG FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO N MAY 15 ACTION
AMEMBASSY SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0316

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS, CB

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR MAY 15, 1973

1. SUMMARY: A COMMUNIST AMBUSH IN CHUONG THIEN COST ARVN
DEARLY IN MEN, WEAPONS, AND RADIOS. COMMUNIST TACTICS DERAILED
AN ICCS INVESTIGATION. A PROMINENT KHMER KHROM OFFICER IS
REPORTED KILLED IN CAMBODIA. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) MR IV REPORTED 39
COMMUNIST- INITIATED INCIDENTS MAY 14. THESE INCLUDED
THREE GROUND ASSAULTS, 27 ATTACKS BY FIRE, SEVEN HARASSMENTS,
AND TWO ACTS OF TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE. RVNAF LOST 26
KILLED, 121 WOUNDED, AND 35 MISSING. THE COMMUNISTS
REPORTEDLY LOST 35 DEAD. SIX CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND
TEN WOUNDED.

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(B) A COMMUNIST AMBUSH IN CHUONG THIEN MAY 14 JROUTED AN ARVN INFANTRY COMPANY. TWENTY- TWO MEN OF THE 2 ND COMPANY, 497 TH CHAU DOC RF BATTALION, ESCAPED THE AMBUSH NEAR HOA LUU VILLAGE, KIEN HUNG DISTRICT. THEY LEFT BEHIND 21 OF THEIR COMRADES, INCLUDING THREE OFFICERS, AND LOST AN M-60 MACHINE GUN, A 60 MM MORTAR, EIGHT 45 CALIBER PISTOLS, FIVE M-79 S, FIVE M-16 S, AND FOUR PRC-25 RADIOS.

3. ICCS: COMMUNIST SOPHISTRY HAS CHARACTERIZED THE ICCS INVESTIGATION OF THE MAY 3 VC ATTACK ON GIA HOA VILLAGE, BA XUYEN (CAN THO 0291). THE POLES OPINED THAT THE ACCIDENTAL DETONATION OF AN ARMS MAGAZINE IN AN ADJOINING RADIO SHACK MIGHT HAVE DESTROYED THE VILLAGE OFFICE. THE " POLGARIANS" DISCOVERED RUST ON THE JEEP WHICH CARRIED FIVE MEN OVER A MINE TO THEIR DEATH. THEY SAID THE RUST SUGGESTED THE JEEP WAS AN OLD INOPERABLE VEHICLE DRAGGED TO THE SITE AND BLOWN UP. SINCE THERE WERE NO DEAD OR WOUNDED REMAINING IN THE VILLAGE WHEN THE ICCS TEAM ARRIVED THE DAY AFTER THE ATTACK, THE " POLGARIANS" DECIDED THERE WAS NO PROOF OF CASUALTIES.

4. CAMBODIA: CHAU DOC SECTOR OFFICERS SAY THAT LTC CHAU UOTH, A PROMINENT CAMBODIAN RESIDENT OF TRI TON WHO FOLLOWED LONG NOL' S CALL TO CAMBODIA IN 1970, RECENTLY DIED IN COMBAT IN POMBODGE. ACCORDING TO ARVN OFFICERS, UOTH WAS ONE OF THE FIRST KHMER KHROM TO RALLY TO THE ANTI- SIHANOUK CAUSE AFTER THE PRINCE WAS OVERTHROWN.

WISNER
WHITEHOUSE

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